Queen’s Garden Worksheet

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1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

This play opens with Brenda within the theatre, beginning to tell her story of her childhood and journey into adulthood. This play takes place primarily within the Westside in the year 1966, and is centered around the character Brenda, who is 13 when the play begins. The play opens with Brenda being an employee at a local pharmacy, and she has four little sisters and one brother. This play goes forward to detail Brenda’s journey into adulthood.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

Brenda’s meeting with Kali is the intrusion, as it is this introduction that initiates the sequences that would lead Brenda to meet the Kali’s friends of the Westside and show her gang life, as well as many other new experiences, breaking her comfort zone and the stasis of complacency and comfort in which the show began.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

I believe the unique factor of this show is that it is during Brenda’s teenage years, when she is discovering and developing herself, especially as Kali introduces her to new and different experiences. This show takes place at the most pivotal part of a person’s life, the teenage years, as each person discovers who they are and begins to determine who they want to be.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

The dramatic question is will Brenda leave to discover herself and make her own life, or marry Kali and stay in the Westside?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

The first kind of exposition, information that all of the characters know, is shown in this play with the fact that Brenda is interested in Kali, as all the characters seem to know her feelings toward him. The second type of exposition, information that only one character knows, is shown with Brenda’s desires to go to college and start her own life.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatric moment of the show is by far the shoot off between Kali’s gang and Smoke’s gang. This unfortunately results in the death of Kali, Brenda’s first love and the only romantic love she has ever known; this scene is important to Brenda because it is the first major loss in her life, and truly revealed the flaws and horrors that can come from life in the Westside.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Identity

Choice

Making your own destiny

Gang/city life

Self-development

Coming of Age

Violence

Race

Social/Economic status

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Brenda desires change and betterment for herself as she grows older. As she grows, Brenda realizes she wants more than the Westside has to offer her; she longs to go to college, escape the Westside and do more with her life. Brenda ultimately wants to develop a better life for herself away from the Westside and the turmoil within it.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The first primary image of this play is Aunt Mary’s roses. Her roses are luxurious, bountiful and beautiful, creating a sort of oasis within her garden; I believe these roses symbolize the escape and beauty Brenda longs for outside of the Westside, giving her a taste of all that the outside world has to offer. The teacups from Hai are also images that represent Kali and Brenda’s relationship and thus the breaking of that relationship when Kali shatters one of the prized teacups.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Family ties between Brenda and her family are not strong, which is explored thoroughly as Brenda finds herself without relying heavily on her family. Family is also redefined as more than just blood as Brenda calls Hai her family after her own family breaks all contact with her, and is also seen with Brenda’s close relationship with Aunt Mary.